



OPCW

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OMAN

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR SAYYID MUHAMMED H. AL SAID
PERMAMENT REPRESENTATIVE OF OMAN
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman,
Excellency Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, I would like to congratulate the Polish Ambassador's election as Chairman of the Third Review Conference. We are confident that Your Excellency's wide experience will contribute to the Conference's success and the realisation of its desired objectives.

I would also like to thank Her Excellency Ms Nasima Baghli, Ambassador of Algeria, for her invaluable contribution in steering the meetings and discussions of the Open-Ended Working Group for the preparation of the Third Review Conference.

The Sultanate of Oman's delegation and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in the celebration of its sixteenth anniversary since its inception—following the Chemical Weapons Convention's entry into force on 29 April 1997.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to the States Parties, for the sincere efforts they made to ensure the success of the noble goals of the Convention, in particular those related to the destruction of many of the States Parties enormous stockpiles of chemical weapons and their production, storage and use.

Mr Chairman, the Sultanate of Oman underlines its support for the international community's objectives aimed at eliminating such lethal weapons, through the adoption of legislative measures and multilateral international conventions related to issues of disarmament and arms control, and regional and global initiatives in relation to these issues. My country is keen to express its support for such international efforts, and has already signed a majority of the relevant conventions. It is worthy of note that the Sultanate of Oman was one of the first States to join the Convention, which it ratified in 1994.

In view of the Sultanate's endeavour to meet its obligations as stipulated in the Convention's provisions, the Oman National Authority, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has initiated a number of legislative measures and mechanisms necessary for the implementation of the Convention at the national level. Some of the measures include the



formation of a follow-up and coordination committee, which comprises all relevant authorities and aims at coordinating the OPCW's programmes, especially those related to training courses, and regional and international workshops. The Sultanate is eager to participate in such activities and is fully aware of their benefits and importance.

Mr Chairman, the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to the Convention's provisions, especially in relation to observance, verification and declarations has indeed won the appreciation of the OPCW. Since 2005, inspection teams from the OPCW have visited Oman not less than ten times. The inspection teams were in praise of the Omani factories and national facilities' adherence to the allowable chemical production in accordance with the Convention schedules.

The Sultanate of Oman is aware of the hazards of chemical weapons and unconditionally condemns the use of such weapons. The deployment of these weapons leads to the death of countless innocent unarmed civilians, in addition to the catastrophic environmental consequences.

Finally, I wish the Conference success. Thank you.

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